

2006 Floater Log Responses and General Comments

1. If you did not stay at a declared campsite at any time during your float trip, why not?

- #223 Stopped at Black Butte and decided to go all the way out.
- #469 Another group had occupied it first by mistake, we agreed to exchange sites.
- #470 I thought I had upper but actually had middle, couple that traded were great about it.
- #486 Rain & cold
- #531 Missed camp site
- #339 Other people already camped there. They said it was their declared campsite. #337
- #322 Third night had rained too much so we stayed extra.
- #319 Heavy rain river rose from 500cfs to 150cfs.
- #545 We stayed at Upper Table Rock on 7/11/06 instead of Lower Trout Creek because LTC was a trampled site with blowing dust from road and the need to cover more miles with low river flow. Also our decision did not impact anyone else.
- #462 Our declared campsite had a large group with lots of children staying at the adjacent site. They were quite noisy. We talked to the river rangers who were staying there about moving and they said OK.
- #468 Middle Givens we thought was Lower Givens.
- #504 On 4th day we floated all the way to Eden Bridge.
- #408 Missed sign
- We skipped Upper Ridgetop. Weather was too hot, fishing was not.
- #221 Went to Heaven on Earth guest ranch.
- #310 Exited one day early because bad weather.
- #318 Floated out 6/10 due to poor weather. Did not use Ridgetop camp on 6/10.
- #864 Poor fishing high water. Floated through in three days.
- #896 We found ourselves floating faster than anticipated.
- #897 Because others took it, they were supposed to take Upper Sunset Cliff and took ours instead. They told us to keep going down.
- #976 We reserved by self-registration. Big party there so took middle.
- #111 Double booked us into Middle Ridgetop
- #109 Another party came to our Middle Ridge site expecting it to be theirs.
- #106 Traded Middle Sunset Cliff for Lower. We were a party of seven and people at Middle were only three or four.
- #93 Late not feeling well.
- #51 Stayed at Heaven on Earth Ranch
- #43 Weather
- #42 Pulled out day early due to health concerns.

- #37 We met friends from Bozeman and camped three nights with them. There were still only eight in our camp.
- #35 Late starts, equipment trouble
- #28 One person sick, moved to gain more miles
- #26 Floated out on last day., six inches of snow and it was too lousy of weather and too slow of fishing to stay.
- #25 People were in our declared site so we traded no problem.
- #34 The sign was busted and we floated by it because we didn't see it.
- #71 Another party took our site so they could be close to a group they were with.
- #46 We didn't plan for such a long float.
- #348 We skipped last night at Givens Gulch and just went all the way out due to weather and high flows. Muddy water resulted in slow fishing.
- #67 Running late, Warden said OK before we left.
- #442 Camped with friends at Upper Redgetop
- #987 Low water ran out of time and light.

5. Did you witness any fishing, trespassing or litter violations during your float trip? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag numbers if possible.

- #84 Dog poop at Lower Sunset Cliff from previous night and Upper Sunset cliff. Dogs running around a little, minimal disturbance.
- #276 There was dog crap at campsite! Found hairbrush at Crowsfoot.
- #78 None witnessed. Melted glass at fire pit Middle Parker Flat.
- #75 A couple pieces of garbage but real clean.
- #68 Toilet paper on the trail to the toilet at Canyon Depth. We cleaned it up.
- #61 Checked smoke from fire pit at Middle Trout Creek when we arrived at Upper Trout Creek 5/5 Hot coals and glass metal debris in fire ring.
- #Lower Givens, undeclared site had litter-ropes, trash. We picked it up.
- #54 Pretty good campsites-some litter but not much.
- #59 Toilet paper and human waste at Canyon Depth. Toilet paper and trash in fire pit at other camps. No boat tags.
- #70 Parker Flat #1 coals from fire with paper towels and baby wipes unburned in bushes just outside fire ring. Water bottles here and there on shore throughout trip.
- #137 On 5/20 the campsite below us. The people staying there were trying to knock down a burnt/dead tree that has been there forever. Did not get the boat tag number.
- #178 No for all practical purposes the river and campgrounds were excellent.
- #391 Lower Sunset was littered with micro trash including wire pieces and broken glass chips. See the zip lock bag included with this log, containing a lot but not all of the micro trash picked up.
- #305 Notice at Upper Trout Creek cigarette butts and human waste under rock right at tent site.

- #296 The outfitters caught on of our party with a fly as we tried to get around them. We noted vandalism in the River Cave near Deep Creek outfitters golf course. We took pictures of some of the damage.
- #280 Someone's dirty boxers at Merganser head
- #274 Disappointed by the graffiti in the large row in cave. Names on cave were Beav Madsen, A.W., Aaron Macdal also written was "14" "May 16'06"
- #268 Fire still smoking at Canyon Depth as we went by on 6/3
- #236 Indian Springs-orange peelings, cans, & garbage. Crowsfoot-cans in fire pit, orange peelings, nails in fire pit.
- #232 Yes Middle Cow Coulee (walked to it from upper) had beer cans and melted plastic poncho in fire ring.
- #198 Fire ring at Stagmiller was surrounded by scattered clinkers and beer cans. We left a large rope there. Latrine over turned at Bear Gulch.
- #190 5-22 glass and aluminum in fire ring 5-23 micro trash only 5-24 micro trash, dog feces 5-26 micro trash tin can lids in fire ring 5-27 micro trash and I tent site a a little trash.
- #171 Upper Rock Garden some used toilet paper between camp and latrine.
- #159 All camps had glass in fire ring. Sheep Wagon beer can grass.
- #138 Beer cans on hike to cave gone on our return trip.
- #255 No-floaters were friendly and appeared to take great care of river.
- #427 Lower Trout Creek beer can on beach. Lower Ridge Top dumped ashes and plastic. Campers should look for micro trash.
- #424 All camp grounds looked good.
- #417 Unburned paper plate and other trash like charred aluminum foil in fire ring at Upper Fraunhofer when we stopped for lunch on 6-24.
- #413 All camps had micro litter only known offender was Lower Givens but slight micro litter
- #406No, people were pretty good about policing litter and cleaning their camp.
- #397 Some litter at Parker Flat #1.
- #395 Half a watermelon stuck on a rock between Parker Flat and Staigmiller. No boats in the area. Probably on the 20th of June. At Rattlesnake Bar someone had built a campfire in the grass no pit. Dangerous!!
- #564 Fire not extinguished at Lower Bear Gulch and Lower Givens. Charcoals from lunch, i.e. still large sized at 3pm. upon arrival. Toilet seat lids missing from Crow's Foot and Cow Coulee pit.
- #504 Only a little aluminum foil at Middle Cow Coulee. Small amount of river trash throughout- clothes, sighing stuff etc.
- #554 Noticed a few people fishing in the afternoon! No boats around.
- #549 Very little litter.
- #468 Litter just below Eden Bridge.
- #464 Ashes dumped in bushes at Paradise Bend.
- #442 Cabin resident across river from Sheepwagon trained a telescope on people at latrine and in camp.
- #428 Lower Sunset Cliff was covered with cigar butts and we were able to stat a fiere in the fire ring with no matches. Fire was not put out.

- #569 One cabin guest stop owner (at the cabin where the railroad ties go down to the water) was fishing after 1:00 pm despite 6am to 12 restrictions.
- #553 Most other fishermen were not following the rangers request to not fish after noon.
- #298 Found a pop can floating and a plastic bag stuck in a tree.
- #324 Some trash at Upper Ridge Top, paper towels.
- #528 Lower Sunset Cliff, aluminum can found in fire pit and leftover garlic on shore, cigar on shore.
- #515 Dog waste at Franhofer, toilet paper in woods at Mouth of Rock Creek and at Franhofer.
- #518 Outfitter rafts were difficult to pass they would park in the middle of the channel and fish both sides.
- #502 Lots of micro trash, which we picked up.
- #477 There was aluminum foil in the toilet at Cow Coulee

6. Any other comments you have about your Smith River trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.

- #478 Could reduce group size limit
- #475 Great trip. Beautiful campsites.
- #483 Overall river is managed in an excellent manner. Quality experience.
- #900 Lovely River. Thanks
- #488 Great trip-great camps-clean sites. Rocks falling in river at upper Parker during night unsettling in the middle of night-saw rattlesnake hiking to cave. Saw bull snake in rattlesnake camp-lots of dead fish primarily brown trout between 10& 16.
- #500 How sad!! So many campsites, so many people. Who's idea of stewardship id this Please cut back on # of permits.
- #505 We love this trip. Beautiful scenery.
- #514 Thank you
- #502 Love this river, seems to be well managed. Maybe more weed information so people can help out.
- #503 I'm concerned with low flows and dead fish.
- #510 All camps clean and nice.
- #518 Great float, we had a great time and it was first time for all. Would like to see food poles at campgrounds. One boat missed the sign for the channel.
- #512 Lower Rattlesnake, 1 rattlesnake 1 unauthorized fire location away form fire ring.
- #511 Ranger at take out was awesome. He had extra tools in truck to help us out.
- #515 Weather was great! Scenery gorgeous a real treasure. Water too warm saw several dead fish. Suggest this be a catch/release only river.
- #517 Add GPS locations of camps to map.
- #521 Canyon Depth best site. Shelter! Crows Foot exposed Too much soap foam in water.
- #524 Good trip

- #523 FWP should shut down afternoon fishing once water temps reach 70 in afternoon.
- #527 Gorgeous! If it would help the latrines ask every party to add grey water and a big pot from the river. We'd be glad to help
- #526 Concerned that there was an illegal guided trip (KalisPELL group). We heard there were plans to pack in pack out human waste. We would rather pay more for permits than pack in/out.
- #529 Middle Scotty Allen has musk thistle.
- #528 Kirk at put in was very helpful and accommodating to our whole group. Found at Canyon Depth and Lower Sunset Cliff- Hounds Tongue, Burdock, Muss Thistle & Leafy spurge.
- #352 Limit boat trips to four days, five-day floats tend to crowd river at end.
- #276 We had a great trip, good weather. Lots of fun.
- #887 Dogs should stay at home!
- #84 Fire ring hot at Scotty Alen, fire ring smoking last day at lower given's gulch
- #46 It was great. Please don't ban dogs.
- #146 People should only have to use a leash if they can't control their dogs. There should be more dogs on the river.
- #218 Dog loose at Ridgetop on night 3. Weeds are hug4 problem at Ridgetop. Hounds tongue is a taproot and should be pulled. Poison ivy should be exterminated.
- #349 Moose (bull) across from Two Creek.
- #346 We saw a young bull moose about 1 mile below Sheep Wagon. This was a great floating experience. We will definitely apply again to get the fishing experience. Some of the groups appeared very large/may want to consider lowering the number in groups to 10 or less.
- #327 Need to perform some path maintenance at Lower Givens latrine.
- #326 Good job managing it.
- #324 Our fish #s were poor due to high water. We put in at 450 river crested at 1400? Had a great time!
- #322 Great
- #314 Colin and Becky were professional, courteous, and accommodating. Smith river float continues to be a great fun experience.
- #298 We had a great trip other than the night spent at Middle Table Rock. Much too close to Upper Table Rock.
- #286 We'll go again!!
- #285 Wet!
- #281 Great time
- #272 Very nice trip thank you for doing a good job.
- #489 I wish we could stay more nights/float less miles per day.
- #581 We knew it was a low water trip but made it fine. Fishing was great but water temp high so we limited fishing.
- #569 A rather large bear was coming into camp at Paradise Bend. We made lots of noise and the dog barked. The bear came within 50-60 feet of the tent before eventually leaving.

- #545 The latrines were full and on without a lid. They were unsightly and unhealthy. Among the invasive weeds we saw Mullen in the lower portion of the river and morning glory at Upper 'Givens Gulch. The fence in the river at UGG was a hazard. Despite the many natural resource improvements (urgent) it was a wonderful trip. Our overall trip was excellent.
- #418 Party size needs to be 8 or less. Limit # of boats. Need note in flyer for fisherman to stop casting when others pass. Need weed control containment.
- #553 There was a barbed wire fence across the left channel at Upper Givens camp! Aah!! The Ranger gave us no warning about this hazard.
- #570 Excellent operation. Need bear boxes.
- #547 Upper Gulch small adult black bear came into camp knocked over latrine. Left without incident.
- #457 Lots of weeds and dead fish. It's nice to see that people are pulling weeds.
- #466 Campsites in good shape. Nice level of use.
- #465 Trail to latrine at Cow Coulee (lower) was over grown with thistle. Upper Givens trail to camp was infested with poison ivy. Camps were clean and great other wise.
- #174 Is being managed well
- #172 Very enjoyable
- #170 Great trip and weather
- #428 Sunset Cliff and Bear Gulch had latrines with no lids, would be nice if they had. Smell wasn't great.
- #434 Tough to navigate in an aluminum canoe. Great campgrounds!
- #436 Black bear near latrine at Paradise Bend. Maybe two
- #437 Tree in left channel one mile up from take out. Swamped canoe
- #441 Toilet seat missing Upper Rattlesnake. Great otherwise
- #442 Noise after at put in campers talking loud and noise before 6:30 am. Camps pretty clean compared to previous years. Less garbage on river than previous years.
- #443 Crows Foot-bear tracks seen near camp. Merganser- trails to latrine and tent sites overgrown, could use some cutting.
- #449 Smaller groups would be nice. Black bear sighting on 6/26 far across meadow on other side of river. One more night would have made for shorter floats, especially on lower water.
- #450 Great float
- #452 Good trip as usual
- #454 Great trip
- #458 Need lid on toilet at Upper Rattlesnake. I'm tempted to say the weather was bad, the campsites were awful and mosquitoes were horrible so that we have a better chance of a permit next year, but none of that is true. It was an awesome trip. Kudos to MT FWP and to Ranger Becky.
- #460 Saw three bears at Upper Table Rock. One dark black bear we may have seen twice and one larger light colored bear. We had no trouble with them as they kept a large distance. Fantastic. Fantastic trip. You are doing a great job!

- #464 The volunteer weed pullers were great, friendly and hard working. Also great people at takeout.
- #468 Saw raccoon, muskrat, mice, deer, pelicans, blue heron, lots of geese and ducks.
- #948 Have done mid April last 8 years until this. Better than I thought for crowds plus real nice!
- #216 Nice trip
- #207 Great Rangers very helpful at put in. Thanks
- #203 We had a bear at our campsite at 11:15 May 25th.
- #199 Poor fishing due to high muddy water and lack of effort. We had a wonderful time!
- #195 Great float. Latrine at Upper Sunset was too full. Campsites were in good condition and clean. The Jewell's were great help at the takeout.
- #549 River temp was 74 in evening, dead fish and pelicans common. FW" P has voluntary fishing hours and people were fishing after 12 pm. What is up with that?!
- #524 Is it possible to remove the debris on the fork near the takeout at McKamey's so it would be an easier float if you took the right fork?
- #554 We were not warned of a bear being present in the area. It attacked food and tents at the Trout Creek Camp grounds. Toilet seat missing at Syringa. We totally enjoyed our float trip!! Camps were great. Fire rings were nice.
- #504 Limit the amount of water that ranchers can pull off river.
- #484 Great float. Well managed by FWP water warm and no fish biting however. Saw dead fish every day.
- #532 Blue Rout boat #524 tried to pass us on rapid waters on a rock edge and bumped and drove me up on the shallows. They should v\have stayed back in the calm water and let me get thru and then passed me on calmer stretch. Scenery was great. Float was excellent campground good.
- #564 Your staff and the job they perform is outstanding! The other party that launched 7/13 had inferior vinyl 2 person rafts which they had to patch several times, plus they ran out of water at Rattlesnake camp, 7/15 and asked for some of ours. Please improve upon the safety equipment needs and skill levels in your FAQ's info pamphlet. Stay after those noxious weeds!!! Thanks
- #357 Muddy water (please filter). We were pleased with the orientation given by Becky. We enjoyed all aspects of the trip.
- #361 Syringa had thistles near fire pit and near 1st campsite down stream. Private land down stream from campsite has much leafy spurge. Saw one young black bear upstream fro cam ground.
- #362 Greatly appreciate the volunteers at Eden Bridge. Try to find a system where the allocation at the campsites for each group is less competitive! Preference for native Montanan's.
- #363 In general we felt that there were way too many outfitters and outfitted trips on the river. We were Positively put out by one individual that swore at a member of our group at Camp Baker. Said individual seemed to be tight with the FWP Ranger so we didn't report the incident.
- #370 This is an excellent management program. Keep up the good work.

- #371 Fantastic trip hope to do again. Would like info on possible no fishing from Rocky Coulee down.
- #374 Had a wonderful trip
- #378 Most excellent floating experience ever.
- #381 Absolutely great four star!!!!
- #386 Crows Nest- lots of thistle and some Hounds Tongue getting started.
Indian Cave- lots of Mullein. Lower Givens Gulch- Hounds Tongue and Latrine very very full.
- #395 Please try and add a campsite between Sheep Wagon and Cow Coulee. Also between Mouth of Rock Creek and Scotty Allen's Black Canyon. Reduce from 3 to 2 campsites at some of the camps (reduce camp congestion) spread them out more. Over all a great experience! Thanks
- #398 Pick camp sites by mail or internet before hand so its not so crowded at the put in spot. We had people there Friday that were not pushing off until Monday. This would make it less hectic. When we got there, there were no camping spots.
- #432 Great
- #435 Saw Black bear about one mile below Trout Creek camp site (left side).
- #438 Great trip very well managed program
- #401 Great trip. Great division of MT wildlife personnel (Kirk in particular)
- #402 We had a great trip. Need new map to show all sites, upper, lower or number 3 sites. Address the noxious weed problem. Good job at camp site maintenance. Staff is courteous, knowledgeable and professional. Not enough hikes. Need better accessibility of information of trails, caves pictographs and history of river area.
- #404 Thanks Kirk
- #405 Great trip
- #406 The river ranger Kirk was very helpful at the put in and helped us get our rear window repaired that got broken coming into Camp Baker. We appreciated his help very much. Plus he helped us a lot with some great camp sites. Thank very much.
- #408 Scenery awesome!
- #409 Kirk did a fine job.
- #410 Well managed!
- #413 Hole to start fire at Sheep Wagon without matches from the previous fire.
- #417 Two motorcyclists drove onto Sunset campsite as we arrived!!!
- #421 Fabulous! We had a blast, even though we swamped our boat!
- #422 Liked the five day float, enough time on the river and in camp. Liked the latrines.
- #427 Gorgeous! Unforgettable! Breathtakingly beautiful.
- #270 First time to do this trip. All had a great time. River and campgrounds free of trash.
- #269 Black bear at Trout Creek.
- #263 Good weather allowed for a successful float with our 6 month old and 3 year old.
- #261 Excellent, will be on again.
- #259 Fun!

- #256 Great trip
- #255 Great experience!
- #253 Great trip
- #252 The take out was extremely well run by the attendants.
- #251 Thanks a lot we had a fabulous trip!
- #225 Very nice. Excellent job FWP with maintaining campsites and the integrity of the river.
- #124 What happened to the weed girl who gave us all the good info about weeds? That was a great program. Are you ever going to put up the kiosk at Camp Baker?
- #135 Ranger Wil was not helpful. He bumped our party down one notch at Camp Baker saying "There will be a fist fight if you put your name on #6 slot" (which was empty when we arrived.)
- #138 Drunks camped upstream (Middle Givens) but hey they were more than likely from Butte.
- #159 Wonderful as always, very nice ranger at Camp Baker.
- #171 Upper Sunset Cliff, fresh cut small tree next to latrine.
- #176 No lid on shitter at Middle Sunset. Tree in fire pan at Upper Parker. Got any cheese to go with my whine!
- #182 Rattlesnake campsite toilets are full.
- FWP doing excellent job with this river
- # 198 I feel the care and accommodations are above those I would expect. Latrine screen was facing toward other campers instead of away from river.
- #201 Our group would like to see the limit reduced to 1 or 2 small fish only, and we think there's likely a high mortality rate for released fish based on watching people handle fish.
- #212 At middle Table Rock, the gate leading to the latrine is broken off one hinge, there was also quite a bit of leafy spurge at all sites. Latrine very full at Sarynga.
- #221 Need a change house at Eden. The caretakers were using the only restroom.
- #232 Ridge Top camp 2 & 3 fairly close together. Beautiful scenery and history! Put H2O in toilets at Upper Cow Coulee and Lower Ridge Top. Ranger very personable and friendly and at take out.
- #233 We had a great trip. Ranger at Camp[Baker and Eden Bridge were very helpful! Thank you
- #236 This was our 4th year in a row. Best ever
- #239 The Smith is starting to rival the Bitterroot Valley for weeds. Sad to see all the Spurge, Hounds Tongue, Toad Flax hope an aggressive plan can be immediated.
- #242 Latrine sign at Lower Rattlesnake broken. Black bear seen at Lower Trout Creek. Nice bear.
- #258 Boat 251 left a raft right at the corner so other boats were pushed into the rock. As our canoe came round they were taking pictures, casting and otherwise oblivious, when asked they finally reeled in but didn't move the raft. The canoe couldn't make the corner and spilled. They offered minimal help. Boat #251 fished from shore clearly marked no trespassing. To many outfitters, too many cows in the river. Way too much spurge.

- #260 There were no ranger talks before float trip. Latrines were full at Lower Scotty and Lower Sunset. Fire rings were also full at most all of our camps. Liked the weed sign and weed mapping.
- #265 We cleaned out all fire pits as they were filled to top.
- #266 If possible give 3-4 day weather report at orientation
- #268 Lower Ridge garbage in latrine. Hounds Tooth weed at camp #2 & #3.
- #271 Middle Table Rock, latrine had no lid, seat broken, back gate hinge was broken.
- #274 Ranger informed us about putting water in latrines, I've been down a number of times and never told that would help. Also a group of Boy Scouts put water in a lot of the latrines.
- #280 More info on web about put in policy would be helpful and efficient.
- #289 Upgrade latrines some were full.
- #296 On our way out to Camp Baker the outfitter in a pickup with trailer passed us on a curve in order to get there ahead of us. We were in a stretch van with trailer. Once at the site the Ranger requested that everyone remove the vehicles from the camping area as we had a maximum crowd putting on the next day. The outfitter ignored the Ranger and left three vehicles parked all night. Our Ranger was very efficient, courteous and respectful. We was wonderful to work with, very helpful. We hope you appreciate him as much as we do!
- #305 We had a great time. Ranger at put in was really nice and informative.
- #306 Upper Black Butte camp very muddy. Hard to get gear up hill to camp. Maybe shut it down until grass grows back.
- #309 Bear Gulch camp was a disappointment. Fresh cow crap everywhere. Muddy road though camp. Truck drove through at first light in am. Poor boat landing. Would have appreciated feedback from Ranger when asked. We could have selected any camp. First Smith trip. Beautiful, hope to come back.
- #310 Prior Ranger (Wil) was an a-----e per other floaters (previous) but understand he has left. Current ranger for us male & female were good.
- #317 The latrine at Givens Gulch was becoming excessively full. The trip was great.
- #318 Too muddy to catch fish. Fishermen on river are inconsiderate to passing boats.
- #348 Enjoyed the trip once again. Friends from MN really liked their first trip down river. Saw black bear in meadow across river at Middle Table Top. Outfitters took up a lot of space at put in and rafts there from at least 7:30 until around noon, made it hard for everyone else.
- #325 Some fire rings were poorly placed (water collected in them) spectacular scenery and for the quality of river, the amount of contact we had with other campers was just right. For our first trip, this seemed to be a very well managed river.
- #368 Tree down on the 2nd left channel below Hound Creek, could be a problem in low water.
- #391 Merganser is in serious need of brush cutting. Toilet lid is broken. Has screws sticking out.

- #481 Great trip. Clean campsites. Had a little confrontation at Table Rock. My son went fishing and was told to get out of their fishing hole (no one was fishing in it at the time) people staying in Upper Table Rock.
- #864 Swivel seats on latrines so as to get the 360 views!
- #888 I seen several boats in tight areas fishing, blocking floaters to pass, sometimes resulting in hitting walls to get by.
- #893 Have someone at put in people get on river a day early taking our spots.
- #896 Fabulous float! Last three miles of float downed trees in channels which caused concern.
- #976 Double booked at Paradise, party of three-booked Ranger on Sat. we self registered on Thurs and declared that site?????
- #189 Had some other fisherman stop and intrude where we were fishing. People were at Sunset Cliffs 5/23.
- #187 Upper Trout Creed stopped for lunch fire still burning 5/24. Upper Rattlesnake stopped for picture fire still burning 5/25.
- #185 Loved the pictographs, hike was difficult. Thanks or your good work.
- #180 Fantastic!
- #235 Thanks Awesome job! The ranger at the put in was very unprofessional. Fay had made a mistake on our reservation, so we were not going to get to leave until Monday. He was going to try and get a hold of her. We went to town for dinner and ate at Dempseys (his recommendation) we were gone three hours and he wouldn't talk to us when we got back because he was off. If we had gotten back 15 minutes earlier we would have beaten him back because he also went to town. Se we had to wait until Sunday morning to find out that he would let us go because there had been a cancellation. It would have been simple for him to tell us that Saturday evening because we were considering going home. Not a people person!! When we got back he was up and watching TV. Danny Murphy
- #169 Great time well kept campsites.
- #167 Great trip on a well-managed river. Thank you!
- #163 Camps were very clean.
- #160 Great time
- #156 We thoroughly enjoyed the river and campsites. Rangers at both ends were very friendly and helpful. Black bear north of Middle Ridgetop. To far away to be a problem.
- #143 Excellent trip, great weather. Much better than last year.
- #142 Great trip but river was muddy.
- #137 Hope to be back next year!
- #136 The whole trip was great success
- #133 Metal fire pits are dangerous.
- #132 It was beautiful! Thanks to all who made it possible.
- #115 Thank you, very well managed.
- #113 Beautiful weather
- #111 Fantastic please maintain the quality
- #110 River conditions murky for fishing Great trip
- #109 Sighted Black bear at campsite Upper Cow Coulee and wild turkey on 5/13 at 11:00, 3 deer 6 bald eagles, and 1 woodchuck.

- #108 Thank you for the beautiful weather and perfect stream flows.
- #102 Wonderful river trip! I always think of the Smith as a kind of National Treasure, I hope that cabin and home building along the Smith can be contained or hopefully even better, diminished.
- #99 Great weather. Would float again.
- #98 Awesome!!! Beautiful wildflowers “Good river dude”
- #97 Excellent trip, Area very well maintained.
- #96 Great trip, great scenery!
- #94 Awesome
- #85 One of our party caught a ling. Beautiful and super windy.
- #82 Great experience!!
- #79 Waive the fees for the disabled Veterans trip.
- #76 This was our first trip on the Smith River. We had a great experience with our three boys. At the put in trip talk the ranger led us to believe we might find garbage at the campsites. We were relieved to see that FWP supports the “Leave No Trace” philosophy and that floaters put this philosophy into practice.
- #73 We had a great time
- #70 I felt very uncrowded, the spacing was done very well between groups and at campsites. Very helpful staff, can’t wait to apply again for next year!
- #69 Very clean and respectful! Thanks
- #66 Delightful
- #65 Sheep Wagon very clean All camps in great shape.
- #64 Cut up and split the wood they have fell.
- #63 Well signed river don’t add too many more cuz we may lose the wilderness feeling. Nice clean campsites. Thank you for all your hard work it shows.
- #60 Great trip! Thanks
- #57 Nice trip. Rangers at the put in were very nice and informative. Good suggestions on campsites. Keep up the good work.
- #54 Good time. It’s not just about the fishing!
- #52 It was fantastic. We really had a great time.
- #51 Love the river
- #49 Awesome!
- #43 Excellent!
- #42 Good trip
- #41 Great trip
- #39 Beautiful trip. Well managed river.
- #37 Awesome!
- #36 Great trip. Rangers were great as always. The only negative was Dan Troyer running through the camp site with his underwear on his Head! Thanks Dan. Thanks to all who help make this such a great fishery!
- #35 Great trip!
- #33 Campsites in good shape. Always a great float.
- #31 Nice to have host at take out. Makes vehicles more secure. Host are kind. Thanks John Fosket
- #26 It was nice! Great scenery even covered with snow. Flow rate too high for any serious fishing!

- #25 Very nice trip. Loved the turkeys and snow. Maybe should recommend snow shovel.
- #13 The party that stayed at lower Givens 4/23 (the night we were at Upper Rattlesnake) partied loudly until 2am. Very inconsiderate. I am positive they knew we were on proximity.
- #15 Ridgetop latrine sign down and camp sign. Firepit moved.
- #32 No signs at Lower Ridgetop.
- #34 Several boat signs were down, we missed Merganser Bend, probably due to sign was down. So we had to flat to end a day early. Upper Bear was down, as was Lower Ridgetop.
- #38 Was over booked at Paradise Bend this year and tow years ago was also overbooked at Givens. But it worked out. Great trip!
- #55 First day one group of floaters (562) would crowd other boats of the water, very inconsiderate. Add 5 gallon bucket at every campsite or one to each group to help carry H2O to the toilets.
- #56 Outhouses to faraway from camp. People don't want to make the trip, so go the bathroom anywhere.
- #61 Latrine sign at Lower Rattlesnake tipped over. Good trip. Excellent weather.
- #68 Saw a bear below Cow Coulee seeing the pictographs before. Other floaters sat there before us and ate lunch at the only tie off. Despite numerous attempts to have them move on. They need to eat lunch a little further down. Thank you.
- #71 Please keep the latrines. People will not pack it out and will be more likely to take a dump anywhere and everywhere they want.
- #74 The last day (5/10) we passed a pretty obvious outfitted group, 3Odyssey rafts with 2 people each and little equipment, 2 miles ahead a larger Odyssey with a lot of equipment (we were rowing hard). They loaded all the rafts in snowmobile trailer at take out. They said they left on Mon(5/6) They stayed at Middle Givens on Tuesday. We don't know if they paid the outfitter fee, but we've seen a lot of this (31 times on the river).
- #75 Roads running through river? Rip rap and concrete? Erosion from animals drinking? Possible 15 people in party? All areas of concern.
- #86 Boat tag # 94 played stereo in Middle Table Rock on 5/10 and played stereo and shot pistol towards Upper Rattlesnake from Lower Givins on 5/11. Unruly and disturbing, not courteous when asked to be quiet.
- #89 Move pooper farther from fire ring and river at County Line.
- #91, #94 shot off 6 clips on or 50-60 rounds in their camp. (right before Upper Rattlesnake).
- #103 Replace Bear Gulch with more scenic site elsewhere on river. Post and enforce the quiet hours at Camp Baker that was advertised in this years permit info.
- # 112 Inform people of river courtesy, don't pull away from shore in the middle of another group. Seen bear cub at around mile 42.
- #114 Near Trout Creek, private property owners that go thru the creek in large army truck is terrible! Spot lights also!

- #123 It would have been good to have campsite descriptions as part of the packet sent to us ahead of time.
- #224 Nice
- #223 We saw female moose maybe at Sheepwagon on Sat 5/27. We were very cold and wet (beautiful scenery)
- #222 Anything you can do to guarantee the weather would be great!
- #220 Unattended fire at Middle Cow Coulee on 5/7.
- #469 Should require barbless hooks, many dead fish. Limit party size to 10. Need a noxious weed campaign too much leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Guides park boats in navigate water causing other floaters to take evasive action, which may be dangerous for both equipment and passengers.
- #467 Latrine at Upper Cow Coulee needs new seat.
- #473 An outfitter in drift boat was blocking us as we passed. He was also allowing his fisherman to back cast as we passed. Leafy Spurge is in full glory.
- #470 For larger rafts, river to low need to let known big rafts will get stuck.
- #472 Thank you for your work.
- #476 Two tone green R>E>I> tent fly was left at Parker # 1 on 6/30. If found please contact Ed House 21620 Polette Pl. Florence, MT 59833 273-6363 C 546-7763
- #479 Thanks to MT FWP for managing this river superbly.
- #987 Closed right channel above Eden Bridge due to debris, needs addressed. More H2O that side.
- #970 Wonderful time
- #584 Increase water flow by reducing irrigation. Noticed some poor catch and release techniques. Make sure floaters know their campsites and “bring their schedule”.
- #975 Golden Retriever dog attacked our canoe in the middle of the river. I broke my paddle fending him off. Couple miles above Indian Springs. Next time we will shoot him with a 44 mag! Just after dog attacked cabin owner had built a sizeable dam across the entire river with rocks. Few miles down river from Sunset Cliffs I ran into fence across river, 2 rod cables , Had to flatten it to get across.